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CITRUS

APRIL FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE LIME UTILIZATION



FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE

April 10, 2002

ALL ORANGES HELD AT 228.0 MILLION BOXES

The 2001-02 season all orange forecast, released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is maintained at 228.0 million boxes. The early and midseason portion of the total is estimated to be final at 128.0 million boxes. The late type (Valencia) forecast is continued at 100.0 million boxes. If the total is attained, this will be the third largest crop produced in Florida but only two percent more than the 223.3 million boxes utilized last season. In the previous 10 seasons, the April forecast has differed from the final recorded utilization by an average of 1.1 million boxes, with three seasons above the actual production and seven below.

TOTAL EARLY AND MIDSEASON ORANGES FINAL AT 128.0 MILLION BOXES

The 2001-02 final estimate of all varieties of early and midseason oranges rounds to 128.0 million boxes. The **Navel** orange variety, included in the total, was adjusted to 5.5 million boxes from the 5.6 million boxes forecast since October. The route survey (Row Count) conducted on March 27-28, 2002, indicates that only a few rows remain for harvest, which will not be sufficient to affect the total.

Citrus production, April 1, 2002
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1999-00	2000-01	Mar 8, 2002	Apr 10, 2002
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:				
FLORIDA	134,000	128,000	128,000	128,000
California	40,000	36,000	32,000	32,000
Texas	1,460	2,000	1,700	1,550
Arizona	600	480	350	300
Total Above Varieties	176,060	166,480	162,050	161,850
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	99,000	95,300	100,000	100,000
California	24,000	^{1/} 21,000	22,000	23,000
Texas	200	235	200	200
Arizona	500	420	350	350
Total Valencias	123,700	116,955	122,550	123,550
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	233,000	223,300	228,000	228,000
California	64,000	57,000	54,000	55,000
Texas	1,660	2,235	1,900	1,750
Arizona	1,100	900	700	650
Total All Oranges	299,760	283,435	284,600	285,400

^{1/} Revised.

FORECAST DATES 2001-02 SEASON

May 10, 2002
June 12, 2002
July 11, 2002

VALENCIAS STAY AT 100.0 MILLION BOXES

The late type (Valencia) orange forecast is continued at 100.0 million boxes. The March survey of fruit size shows a larger average than last month and slightly more than had been projected to that survey date. The average is now still below the mean of the past 11 seasons and only slightly larger than last season. The March survey of loss from fruit droppage indicates an average of two percent below the 11-season mean. The combination of these factors sustained the forecast level.

The Row Count conducted the end of March shows a greater percentage of harvested rows than the preceding two seasons to the same date. This season is about three percent more than the 10-season mean. At the relative small percent harvest at this time each season, the survey is not considered a forecast indicator.

Estimated utilization to April 1, 2002, is considerably above the last two seasons. Maturity of many of the crops is allowing earlier volume harvest and it is expected that these harvest patterns will continue.

FCOJ CONTINUED AT 1.58 GALLONS

The projected yield for all oranges going into FCOJ is unchanged from last month at 1.58 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees Brix. The early and midseason portion is final at 1.527736 gallons per box as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association report # 26. The Valencia orange yield is unchanged from last month at 1.68 gallons per box. The Maturity Test Results on page 3 of this report show the pounds solids per box for Valencias at 7.15 which is the second highest April 1 pounds solids in the past 10 years.

LIME UTILIZATION

The just completed 2001-02 lime season estimate of total utilization is 240,000 bushels (150,000 88 lb. boxes). There is no forecast of utilization for the 2002-03 season. See page 4 for details.

GRAPEFRUIT STAYS AT 47.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all varieties of grapefruit for recorded utilization stays at 47.0 million boxes (including a preseason allocation of 1.5 million boxes of gift fruit and other use). The forecast continues to be divided into 19.0 million boxes of total **white** grapefruit and 28.0 million boxes of **colored** grapefruit. If the forecast amount is harvested, it will be two percent more than recorded last season, 12 percent below the 53.4 million boxes in 1999-00, and at the level of the 1998-99 crop. The largest recorded crop of all varieties of grapefruit was 55.8 million boxes in 1996-97 which excluded 6.0 million boxes of estimated economic abandonment.

The March survey is the season's final objective count measurement of average fruit size and loss from droppage for the remaining seedless grapefruit crops. Current fruit size continues to be the smallest in the nine year series and the average did not increase from last month. Loss from droppage increased to above last season's, for this time period, but is still below the nine-season mean. The combination of these factors continues to indicate the forecast level for recorded utilization.

The route survey (Row Count) conducted on March 27-28, 2002, shows more than 60 percent of the rows of both categories have been harvested. At this harvest level, the survey becomes a forecast indicator. The **white** percent is 10 percent above last season but seven percent below the 10-season average. The **colored** percent is three percent more than last season but, also, seven percent below the average. Analysis indicates that the remaining rows will provide sufficient fruit to achieve the forecast.

Citrus production, April 1, 2002
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1999-00	2000-01	Mar 8, 2002	Apr 10, 2002
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	53,400	46,000	47,000	47,000
White ^{1/}	21,500	18,700	19,000	19,000
Colored	31,900	^{2/} 27,300	28,000	28,000
Texas	5,930	7,200	7,300	7,100
Arizona	450	250	200	200
California	7,200	6,500	6,200	6,400
Total Grapefruit	66,980	59,950	60,700	60,700
Lemons:				
California	19,000	22,700	22,000	22,000
Arizona	3,100	3,600	3,100	3,100
Total Lemons	22,100	26,300	25,100	25,100
Limes: Florida	600	250	150 (final)	150
Temples: Florida	1,950	1,250	1,500	1,500
Tangelos: Florida	2,200	2,100	2,200	2,150
K-Early: Florida	110	40	30	30
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	7,000	5,600	6,400	6,600
Early ^{3/}	4,350	3,550	4,300	4,300
Honey	2,650	2,050	2,100	2,300
California ^{4/}	2,500	2,100	2,300	2,300
Arizona ^{4/}	850	650	650	650
Total Tangerines	10,350	8,350	9,350	9,550

^{1/} Includes seedy. ^{2/} Excludes two million boxes of economic abandonment. ^{3/} Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy. ^{4/} Includes tangelos.

Estimated utilization through March 31, 2002, for **white** is at the 12.9 million box level, 1.0 million boxes more than last season, but behind the 14.0 million boxes of two seasons ago. **Colored** at 20.5 million boxes is almost identical with the certified use to the same date last season, but 2.0 million boxes less than recorded in 1999-00.

ALL TANGERINES NOW 6.6 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all varieties of tangerines is raised 0.2 million boxes, to 6.6 million boxes, with the increase entirely in the later maturing, **Honey**, portion of the crop. The forecast is 18 percent higher than last season's 5.6 million boxes. If realized, it will be six percent less than the record high crop of 7.0 million boxes used in 1999-00.

The **Early** tangerine category is estimated to be 4.3 million boxes. This category consists of **Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst** and **Dancy** varieties. Harvest of these varieties is almost over, with only a few boxes of **Sunburst** and **Dancy** still being certified. The fresh certifications are designated by variety and the million box equivalents are as follows: **Sunburst** - 2.000, **Fallglo** - 0.512, **Robinson** - 0.062, and **Dancy** - 0.003. Processed **Early** tangerines at 1.5 million boxes are not certified by variety.

Honey tangerines, the only later maturing variety, is increased to 2.3 million boxes. The latest Row Count survey shows 88 percent of all the "regular bloom" rows harvested. However, based on the estimated certifications through March 31, 2002, including the preseason allocation of 0.1 million boxes of unrecorded gift fruit and other use, the March forecast of 2.1 million boxes is close to being attained. Weekly estimated utilizations have held relatively constant for the past month at the 0.150 level, but should decline rapidly. Utilization through March 31, 2002, is more advanced than the last two seasons to the same date. If the forecast is attained, it will be 12 percent above the 2.050 million boxes recorded last season but 13 percent less than the record large crop of 2.650 million boxes in 1999-00.

TEMPLES REMAIN AT 1.5 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast is held at 1.5 million boxes. The Row Count survey percent harvested and the movement to that date are the supporting indicators for the forecast level. Harvested rows total more than last season and the estimated utilization through March 31, 2002, is 0.150 boxes more than last season. Only 1.250 million boxes were recorded last season, the least amount in the historic series. In the past 10 seasons, an average of almost 70 percent of Temples have been used in processed form.

TANGELOS ADJUSTED TO 2.15 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is reduced 0.05 million boxes to 2.15 million boxes. The downward adjustment is based on the estimated utilization of 2.130 million boxes to April 1, 2002, including 0.2 million boxes of allocated gift fruit and other use. Only a few thousand boxes were certified in the past month. The Row Count survey still shows more than 20 percent of the potentially harvestable rows unpicked. The past five-season average shows that 69 percent of those crops were used in processed form.

Unadjusted Maturity Tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2000-01 and 2001-02 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	
	Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.									
ORANGES: Late (135-118)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.46	2.22	8.80	8.90	3.63	4.07	46.55	47.67	4.09	4.24
Nov 1	2.02	1.79	9.47	9.25	4.77	5.23	50.76	51.80	4.81	4.80
Dec 1	1.75	^{1/}	10.36	^{1/}	6.01	^{1/}	52.10	^{1/}	5.40	^{1/}
Jan 1	1.52	1.28	11.08	10.98	7.43	8.75	54.26	55.41	6.02	6.09
Feb 1	1.41	1.14	11.85	11.74	8.51	10.45	53.62	55.41	6.36	6.51
Mar 1	1.21	1.08	12.50	12.41	10.45	11.70	53.80	54.98	6.73	6.83
Apr 1	1.06	0.92	12.69	12.76	12.13	14.13	54.82	55.98	6.96	7.15

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

^{1/} December 1, 2001, data not available due to testing equipment malfunction.

Maturity test averages by areas, April 1, 2002

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
ORANGES: Late						
Indian River Dist.	23	0.92	13.14	14.49	56.00	7.38
Other Areas	95	0.92	12.67	14.04	55.98	7.10

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

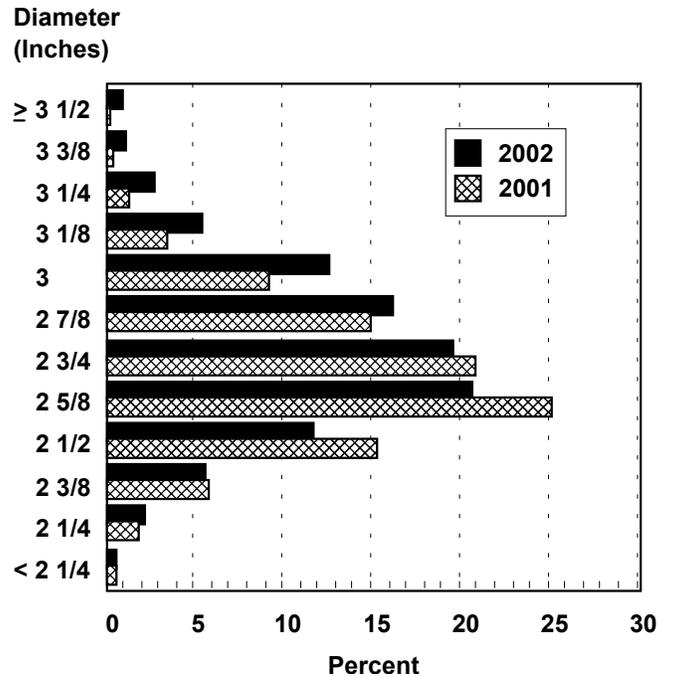
Size frequency distributions from the March size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period March 18 through 26, 2002. Comparable sizes for 2000 and 2001 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from March measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2000	2001	2002
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	10.8	6.2	8.5
80	27.5	22.8	24.3
100	35.5	40.5	36.6
125	19.3	23.9	21.6
163 and smaller	6.9	6.6	9.0

The chart on the right compares the relationship of the March 2002 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in March 2001. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

CHART 1: Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from March measurements.



2001-02 LIME UTILIZATION

Utilization of Florida's 2001-02 lime crop, which finished harvest March 31, is estimated at 240,000 bushels (150,000 88-lb. boxes). At the request of the Lime Administrative Committee, inspection and certification of limes ended February 19, 2002. At that time, 195,600 bushels had been reported certified for the season which began April 1, 2001. Very limited amounts were shipped for the remainder of the season.

The introduction of citrus canker into the lime producing area resulted in the destruction of many lime trees. Bearing acreage is estimated at 800 acres with most of this in Miami-Dade County. The Lime Administrative Committee has voted to temporarily suspend the inspection and certification of limes. Consequently, there is no forecast of utilization for the 2002-03 lime season.

FLORIDA LIMES: Utilization in bushels, 1992-93 through 2001-02 season, and total forecast for 2002-03 season

Season	Fresh use			Sold for processing	Total production
	Certified shipments	Local sales	Total fresh		
			Bushels		
1992-93	1,146,100	21,900	1,168,000	432,000	1,600,000
1993-94	228,500	11,500	240,000	80,000	320,000
1994-95	289,300	14,700	304,000	64,000	368,000
1995-96	371,400	12,600	384,000	96,000	480,000
1996-97	398,300	9,700	408,000	104,000	512,000
1997-98	510,400	17,600	528,000	176,000	704,000
1998-99	645,400	10,600	656,000	144,000	800,000
1999-00	774,200	25,800	800,000	160,000	960,000
2000-01	344,000	8,000	352,000	48,000	400,000
2001-02	195,600	4,400	200,000	40,000	240,000
FORECAST					
2002-03			NO FORECAST		